ARMY
NAVY
AIR FORCE
JOURNAL

"SPOKESMAN OF THE SERVICES SINCE 1863"

1710 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

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D. C. BROWN, President-Comptroller
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8 NOVEMBER 1958

Service Family Housing Takes A Step Forward

Department of Defense decision to give the Services the go-ahead on construction of much of the huge backlog of already authorized family housing is welcome news. (See story on first page).

The dearth of service housing in all of the Armed Services has been characterized as the number one enemy of career incentives. Both the Air Force Association and the Association of the U. S. Army have backed up with strong resolutions their affirmations that the lack of housing is harming morale. Top officers in all of the Services, and particularly the Air Force, have frequently called the shortage to public attention in their speeches.

THE JOURNAL looks forward to the time when Congress will return to the pre-war policy of providing government housing for all permanent posts, stations, and bases. As Chairman Carl Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee has pointed out, government housing would be cheaper for the taxpayer as well as more satisfactory to Service families.

Citizens Committee For Hoover Report Gives Up

We hope that the disbanding of the volunteer Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report means an end to the intensive campaign of propaganda it has sponsored to gain Congressional support for the unenacted portions of the Hoover Report which include much that would be damaging to the morale, and hence efficiency, of the personnel of the Armed Services.

In ending its existence, the Committee noted that 64 percent of the recommendations of the second Hoover Commission were accepted by Congress and the Executive Branch of the government. What did not get adopted, and which the committee had campaigned for, included such recommendations as those to curtail drastically the activities of the Services' commissary stores, drop Post Exchange sales of many items, consider turning commissaries and PXs over to private concessionaires, reduce travel allowances, restrict shipment of household goods, charge service personnel for shipping their automobiles overseas, restrict the functions of MATS and MSTS, close many service hospitals and infirmaries, etc.

Some phases of the Report, however, were more constructive. It urged, for example, that more officers and more funds be provided for basic research, that Congress restrain from keeping such a close hand on military procurement, and that greater use be made of retired personnel.

We hope some way can be found to continue support to the latter recommendations without encouraging the backers of the anti-service-morale phases of the Report.

A Salute To The Marine Corps On Its 183d Birthday

The Services and the Nation salute the U. S. Marine Corps on the 183d anniversary of its founding, as the Continental Marines, on 10 November 1775.

From their first landing operation—a successful raid on New Providence in the British Bahamas in March 1776—to their latest landing in Lebanon they have acquitted themselves with honor and distinction.

As today's Commandant, General Randolph McC. Pate, says in his birthday message to the Corps, their "instant readiness is at once our responsibility and our pride."

"While our past accomplishments have been enviable," General Pate tells his people, "we must never be content to rest on our laurels. In an uneasy world threatened by ruthless aggression we must, in the years to come, not only maintain but further develop the readiness which characterizes our Corps."

Truly, the Marine Corps today enjoys a peacetime strength, a legal status, and public support that puts it at the top of its long and distinguished history.

NATO'S Missile Forces Growing

General Lauris Norstad, USAF, Supreme Commander of NATO forces in Europe, told a press conference this week that missile modernization of his forces is going forward at a rapid rate.

There are at present, he revealed, 30 missile-equipped battalions in NATO's European command. Under present plans, he said, this number will be expanded to 100 by 1963.

NATO's air forces also are getting a number of new types of fighting planes, he said.

All of this is good news. There must be a continuing effort to modernize and keep strong both our forces and those of our allies in this most strategic area.

READERS' VIEWS

Supports Survivor Benefits Change

■ After reading THE JOURNAL cover to cover for weeks, hoping to find something was being done to support Representative Utt's and Senator Sparkman's bill—"widows pension of retired officers"—I was glad to read your stand on the matter last month.

Thank you. I hope you will continue the good work when Congress meets. We will start writing to our senators again.

In Readers' Views of 4 October, "Colonel, USA-Ret" covered our problems well. As he said, even $50 a month increase would have been welcome.

MRS. C. H. LANTZ

Leyte Cruise Book

■ The USS Leyte is currently engaged in the preparation of a historical-type cruise book to deal with the past 13 years of the Leyte's service to the fleet. As far as we know, this is the first "cruise book" to attempt to scan so large an area of time. It is our hope that many of the former officers and men of the Leyte who served as members of squadrons or ship's company would be interested in obtaining this book.

We would appreciate any notice of our forthcoming publication you could give in your JOURNAL to help us reach these personnel. In as much as the Leyte is being decommissioned early next year, this will be the last and, we hope, the best cruise book ever published by our ship. Any person desiring to order a copy of the book may do so through the Leyte P.I.O. Books will be mailed to purchasers upon receipt of payment of $5.00 per copy.

ROBERT A. OLSON,
ENSIGN, USNR,
CRUISE BOOK COMMITTEE
USS LEYTE (CVS-32)
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"Unit Esprit"

■ We in the Armed Forces have long felt that THE JOURNAL is the sounding board of the Services. With this in mind I would like to throw an idea into the "Pot of Thought" to stir up possible discussions in and around the Pentagon desk level.

In comparing combat units of foreign armies with our American Battle Groups, we are either ahead or run neck and neck until we get into the "Unit Esprit" category. This certainly shouldn't be the case but is certainly evident when a person is stationed where foreign army units can be observed. Here in Berlin we are privileged to observe, within the British system of rotation of units, the fine separate battalions of the British Army. These units have the highest esprit in the world and are some of the finest! Why? They have years of tradition and background. (We can't match tradition and longevity.) Personnel are assigned for life. (Gyro is not a success, we can't match permanent assignment.) Considering all this we still are not too far behind, but now we consider "Esprit." Each British Battalion has some distinctive feature in the way of uniform so that each unit can say "We are the only unit in the whole army that wears etc. and etc.," whether it be kilts (of a certain color and design), a colored beret, pink lapels, spats or a pig-tail down the back of the blouse.

Let's start now and amend our puritan ways and allow each of our battle groups and combat battalions to adopt a distinctive item of clothing, headdress, or etc. to provide and/or enhance our unit "Esprit de Corps." The Heraldry office could be designated to approve the distinctive items and to insure there is no duplication between units.

The puritan cry will be: "The writer is nuts—a division review will look like a circus"! (If that is the case, I am definitely for a bigger and better circus.) Anyone that thinks this should attend the British Army's Queen's Birthday parade presented in Berlin's Olympic Stadium each year. It is breathtaking in color and precision and each individual soldier is there demonstrating how much better his unit (color, beret, kilt or etc.) is than any other in the whole army.

I know of no other camp or station which has two battle groups from the same infantry regiment as we do in Berlin, so something distinctive along the lines suggested would set off and build esprit de corps in the 2d and 3d Battle Groups of the 6th Infantry. The amazing fact is, that it would not cost the government a penny because the individuals would purchase the item just to be a little different from other units.

In my very humble opinion, the suggestions in this letter are small and insignificant but could and would pay large dividends in establishing "Esprit de Corps" in our combat units, second to none.

WILLIAM M. MILEY, JR.
MAJOR, INFANTRY

IN THE JOURNAL

10 Years Ago—To bolster the strength of the Dental Corps, seriously undermanned, the Army this week announced a plan by which 300 senior dental students will receive commissions as second lieutenants in the Medical Service Corps Reserve with full pay and allowances.

50 Years Ago—Deliveries have been made of the new heavy furniture for officers' quarters at nearly all Army posts in this country. The allotment of this furniture has been made according to houses and not according to rank. In effect every officer gets the same number and character of pieces.

95 Years Ago—The Russians are preparing for war, and their preparations are upon the largest scale. . . . The Czar, as an intelligent despot, understands the importance of working out every practicable idea for offense or defence to its ultimate results. He cares little or nothing for precedent and is untrammeled by red tape. When he has decided upon his course, he stops at nothing.

COL. V. S. SMITH, right, Commander of the 2484th Air Reserve Training Wing, is congratulated by Maj. Gen. Robert E. L. Eaton, left, 10th Air Force Commander, who presented him with all three of the 10th AF Mission Performance Awards at the quarterly air reserve training wing commanders' conference at Selfridge AFB, Mich. One award went to Col. Smith's wing and the other two to the Ft. Worth Air Res. Center, and the 13th AACS Sq., both of which are under his wing's command.

AF Undercuts Flying Saucer Reports

Unidentified flying objects are becoming much less of a mystery than in previous years, according to latest Air Force statistics on UFO investigations.

During the 13-month period ending 31 July 1958, the Air Force reports, less than 2% of 1,270 UFO reports (or about 25) were classified as "unknowns."

In 14% of the reports, the Air Force said, there was insufficient data to perform a thorough analysis and evaluation.

Newest AF Hospital Opens At Andrews

The Air Force's newest and one of its most streamlined hospitals was formally dedicated 7 November, at Andrews AFB, Md.

In operation since 4 August, the hospital is the first such Air Force facility to be centered from its very beginning around a compact outpatient clinic.

Col. Jennings

This innovation, pioneered by Hospital Commander Col. A. L. Jennings, emphasizes the fact that modern drugs and medical procedures have reduced the the number of patients who must be admitted to bed care and prolonged treatment.

"We have taken enough space," Colonel Jennings told THE JOURNAL, "to house all of our doctors and all of our specialists in an integrated clinic. Each doctor has his private office with his name on the door and is supported by receptionists, nurses, assistant nurses, various technicians and administrative support."

Stressing that one of the aims of the clinic theory is to give each patient more personal attention, Colonel Jennings said "we try to see that each patient sees the same doctor on all subsequent calls." This, he stated, is quite similar to civilian "family doctor" care.

In addition to its clinically centered operations, Colonel Jennings said, the new hospital will have more professional capabilities, both in depth and scope, than any other Air Force Facility on the East Coast.

It will serve Air Force families at Andrews and Bolling AFB's, as well as Army, Navy and Marine personnel who reside in the Washington Area south of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. Specialized medical care will be provided for all Air Force personnel in the Northeastern area of the U .S.

The six-story, six xand a half million dollar structure is capable of expanding its present 250-bed capacity to 500 beds. Its out-patient facility can be expanded to treat 1,000 patients daily.

Among its modern features, it numbers complete air conditioning, a central oxygen distribution system, pneumatic tube message delivery, intercommunications in all clinics and ward areas, and closed circuit TV service for instruction in professional subjects.

In the future, hospital officials hope to add a high-altitude pressure chamber for physiological training, a histopathological laboratory to serve the Northeast U. S. and Air Force Atlantic Bases, and a central medical laboratory.

Among those participating in the dedication ceremonies are: Maj. Gen. Olin F. McIlnay, Deputy Air Force Surgeon General; Maj. Gen. T. P. Finnegan, Chief of Air Force Chaplains; and Maj. Gen. Reuben C. Hood, Headquarters Commander.

In addition to Col. Jennings, the hospital staff includes: Col. A. R. Crow, Executive Officer; Col. A. A. Hoffman, Director, Professional Services; Col. M. E. Groover, Chief, Aviation Medicine; Col. R. E. Lau, Chief, Anesthesiology; Col. I. M. Hauser, Chief, Dental Service; Col. K. D. Eye, Chief, Base Dental Service; Lt. Col. M. W. Steel, jr., Chief, Medical Service; Lt. Col. P. A. Cox, Chief, Surgical Service; Lt. Col. M. R. Pierce, Chief, Nursing Service; Lt. Col. G. Edwards, Director, Plans & Operations; Lt. Col. R. R. McCullaugh, Chief, Dietetic Service; Maj. E. Danka, Chief, Medical Material; Maj. G. C. Phelps, Chief, Veterinary Service; Capt. R. L. Davis, Administrative Officer; Capt. R. H. Shore, Commander, Medical Squadron Sec., and 1/Lt. R. F. O'Neill, Industrial Hygiene Engineer.

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